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REPORT

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SOURCE Yugoslav newspapers as indicated.

**RECLAMATION PROJECTS PLANNED;
STATE FARM FOUNDED**

LAKE SKADAR RECLAMATION -- Borba, No 108, 8 May 49

The first large-scale work on tunnels, tunnel approaches, and regulation of water courses in the Lake Skadar reclamation project will begin soon. Barracks for reclamation workers and shelters for building materials, tools, and other equipment are now being erected. Compressors, equipment for electric power plants, and other machinery are on order. Such modern equipment will be used extensively on the project.

According to the joint arrangement originally proposed to the Albanian Government, 44,272 hectares of fertile land would have been reclaimed for cultivation. Of this area, only 13,041 hectares are in Yugoslavia, and the remainder is in Albania. This area has been flooded year after year by Lake Skadar because the course of the Drim, Bonjana, Krinjaca, and other streams in Albania have not been regulated. Catastrophic floods occur in Albania every other year when these rivers rise.

With the cooperation of Albania, the Lake Skadar reclamation project would have been completed in 3 years.

After the refusal of the Albanian Government to cooperate, Yugoslavia decided to proceed unilaterally with a new project which will increase the cultivable area of Yugoslavia by 2,000 hectares more than the joint project. Work will be done only on Yugoslav territory. The Albanian streams will remain uncontrolled.

A line of levees will be thrown up across the lake and marshes, and a tunnel will be built through the Sozina highlands. Part of the lake will be walled off with levees, and the water from here will be diverted into the sea by means of drainage canals and a 9-kilometer tunnel through Mt Sozina, which lies between the lake and the sea. According to the new project, the water level of the lake will not be lowered, as the joint plan provided, but will rise and inundate the land south of Bozaj, Podlim, Tostilja, Podjuni, and other localities as far as Virpazar. A solid levee, several

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kilometers long, built through the lake will barricade about 15,000 hectares of land now under water or flooded periodically. The water will be drained off by means of pumps and drainage canals into the Yugoslav part of Lake Skadar. To prevent a consequent rise in the water level and flooding of Albanian territory, water will be drained off through a tunnel into the sea.

The thousands of hectares of fertile land to be made available for cultivation in Montenegro are very suitable for subtropical crops. Tens of thousands of hectares beside the lake in Ucinj and other polje, also to be reclaimed, will be used for growing cotton, rice, and sunflowers. At present, marshes cover 5,500 hectares, and 2,500 hectares of pasture and meadow are flooded from time to time. These pastures and meadows now produce 2,000 kilograms of hay per hectare per year.

After reclamation, agricultural production in the district will be fundamentally altered. About 7,000 hectares will be planted in cotton. With favorable weather, an average yield of 500 kilograms per hectare per year can be expected. The entire cotton crop for a year should be worth over 132 million dinars. Including the rice, fodder, vegetable, and sunflower crops to be grown there, the total value of produce in the reclaimed area should amount to nearly 400 million dinars per year.

The return of these new areas to cultivation will lower the average cost of a kilogram of cotton in Yugoslavia by one third, of rice by one half.

Irrigation canals will give sufficient moisture to the soil. Livestock-raising will be extended and developed. The incidence of malaria will be greatly reduced. Eighty percent of the population on the Albanian side of Lake Skadar suffer from malaria, which cuts labor productivity by 40 percent and kills 560 persons per year.

RECLAMATION IN MONTENEGRO -- Borba, No 111, 11 May 49

The regulation of the Sutorina River, which floods more than 600 hectares of the most fertile land in Herceg Novi Srez in Montenegro, has been started. The Montenegrin Government has approved a credit of 8 million dinars for this project.

Work on the project began in 1947 with the regulation of streams to prevent deposits of gravel and sand. In the spring of 1949, work was begun on levees to correct the course of the river and prevent it from carrying topsoil into the sea.

Manpower and construction materials have been obtained. The levee will be built by inhabitants of Herceg Novi Srez.

As climatic conditions are favorable, the control of the river, the reclamation of Sutorina Polje, and eventual irrigation will permit the growing of vegetables, industrial plants, and subtropical crops in the district. A collective truck farm will be established there this year.

NEW STATE FARM IN MONTENEGRO -- Politika, No 13232, 8 May 49

A new state collective farm has been founded at Stoj in Bar Srez by the Montenegrin Government. The land has never been cultivated before. The construction of housing and farm buildings will be started soon.

Subtropical crops, especially figs and grapes, will be grown at the new farm.

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MONTENEGRIN WOOD-CUTTING PLAN MET -- Politika, No 10035, 12 May 49

The wood-cutting plan for Montenegro has been fulfilled. Over 4,000 volunteers from the People's Front, organized into 25 brigades, supplemented the regular forest workers.

MACEDONIAN COTTON PLANTING PROGRESSES -- Borba, No 110, 10 May 49

Although cotton planting began late in almost all srez of Macedonia because of unfavorable weather, the rapid progress of the last few days has put the program back on schedule. Planting has been finished in Stip Srez and is almost finished in Strumica and Kumanovo Srez.

The greatest problems this year are the mobilization of enough horses and other draft animals and the delay in repairing planters.

The farm workers' cooperatives are setting a spectacular example by fulfilling or exceeding their plans almost every day. They fulfilled their daily plan by 187.9 percent on 3 May and by 227.4 percent on 4 May.

MORE COTTON IN HERCEGOVINA -- Borba, No 110, 10 May 49

The 1949 spring sowing plan for Bosnia and Hercegovina calls for the planting of 9.4 percent more land than in 1948. The plan for industrial crops is 80 percent greater, for grain 26 percent greater, for vegetables 5 percent greater, and for fodder crops 161 percent greater. Particular attention is being paid to cotton planting, as conditions in Hercegovina are very favorable for this crop.

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